



Castlevania

the belmont legacy



ANDREYKO
SU

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00111



Written by **Marc Andreyko**
Pencils & Inks by **E. J. Su**
Colors & Letters by **Tom B. Long**
Cover by **Robert Teranishi**
Cover Colors by **Dan Brown**
Editor **Kris Oprisko**



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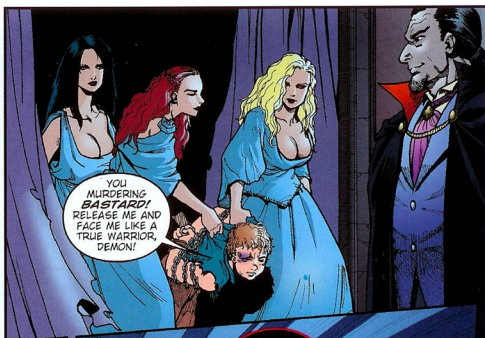
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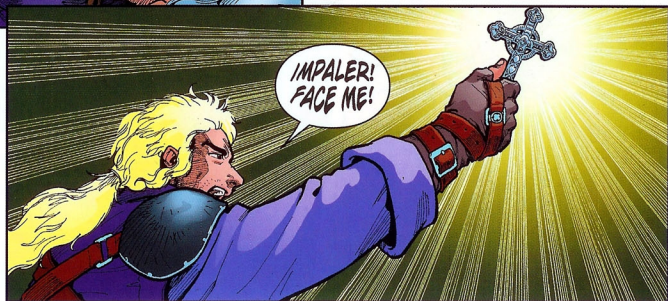
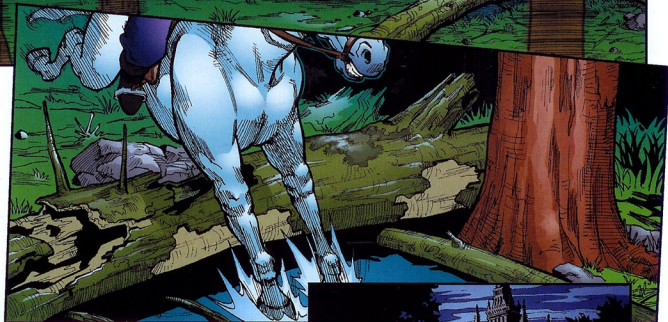
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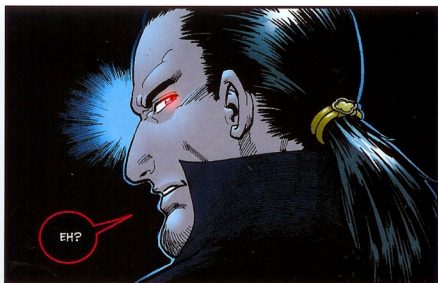
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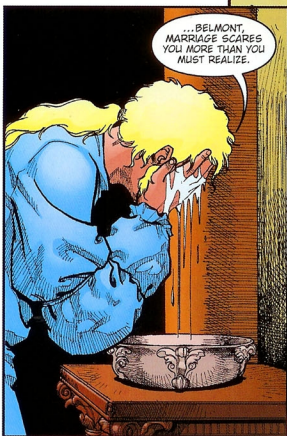
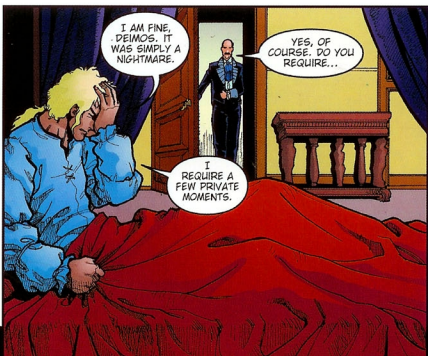




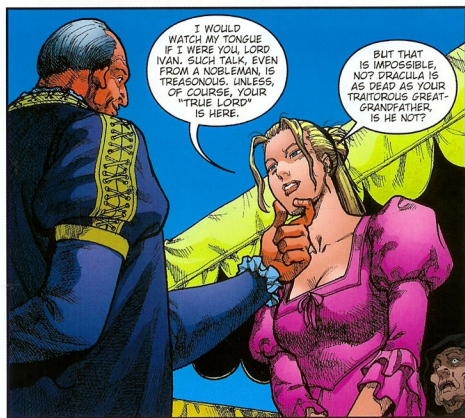
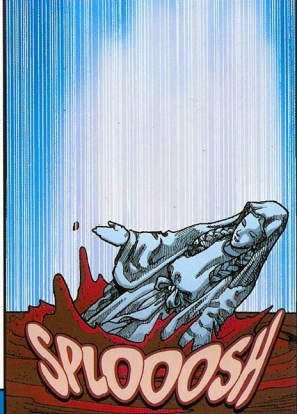




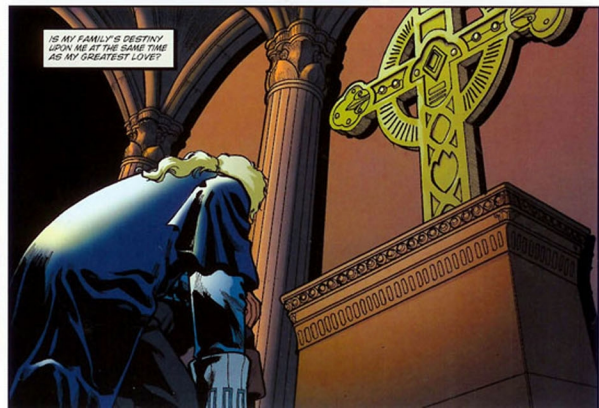
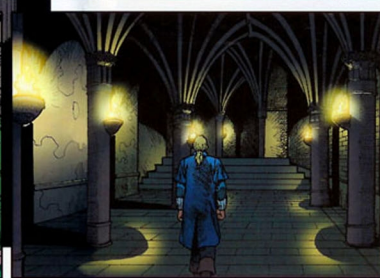


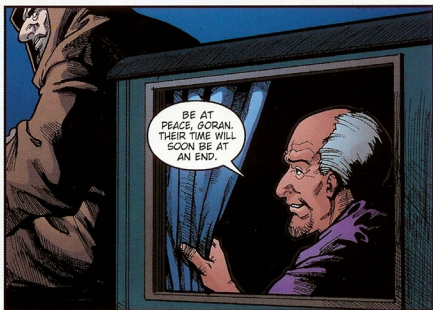


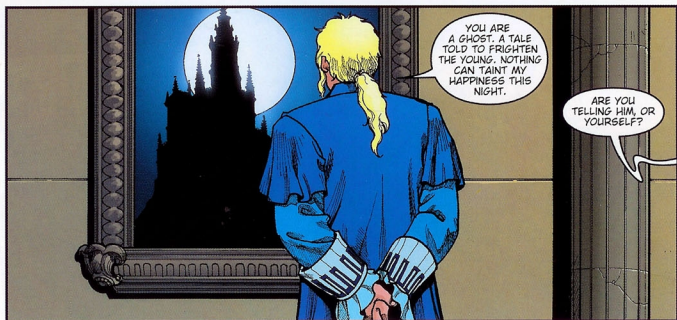


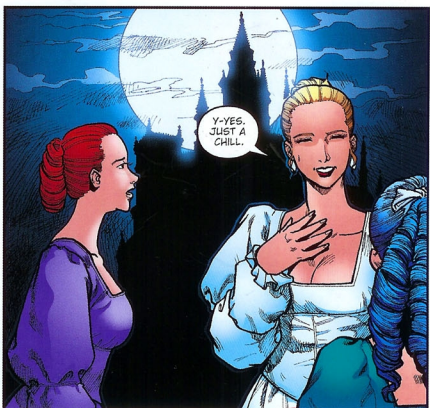


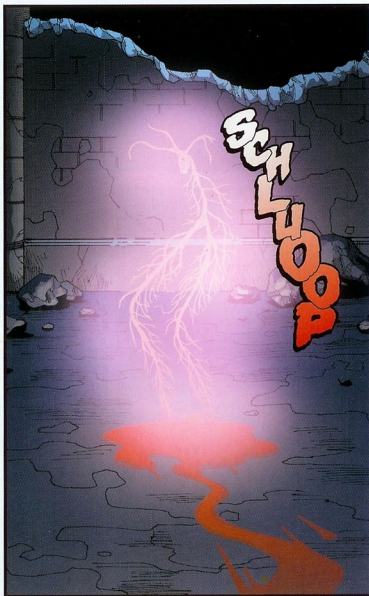
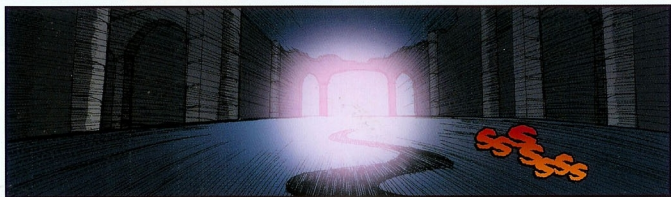


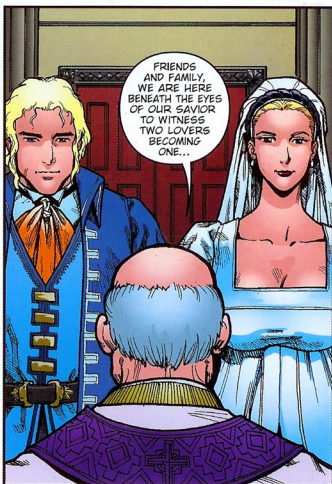
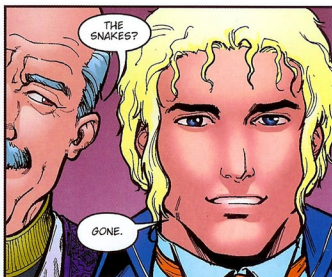
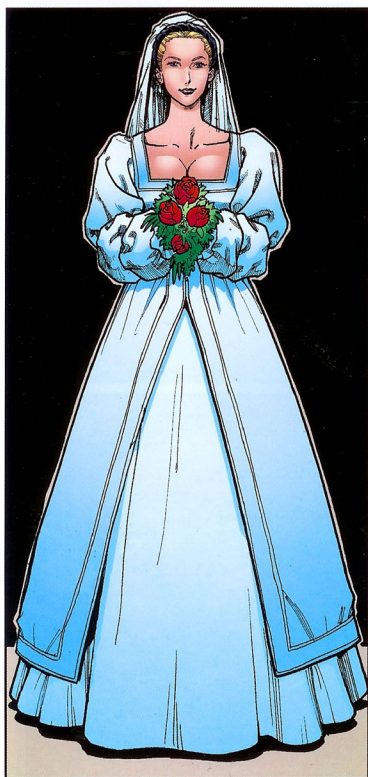




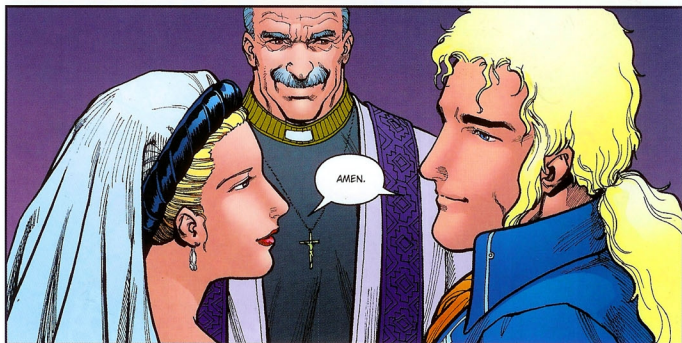


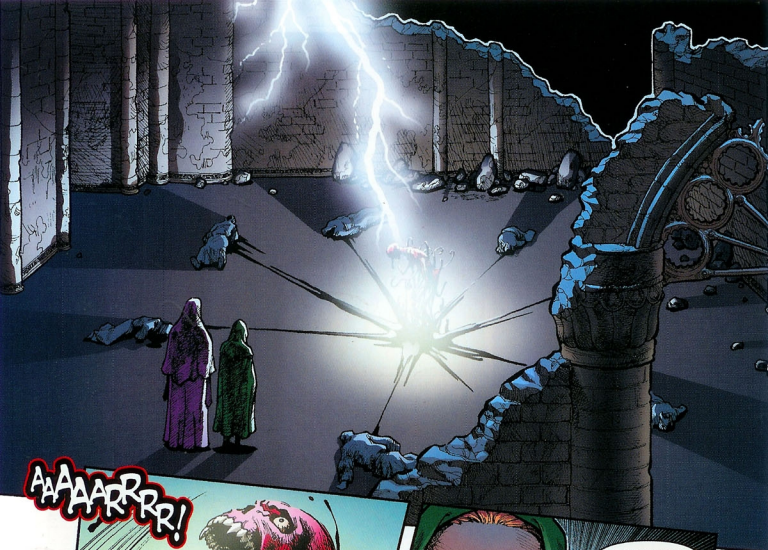












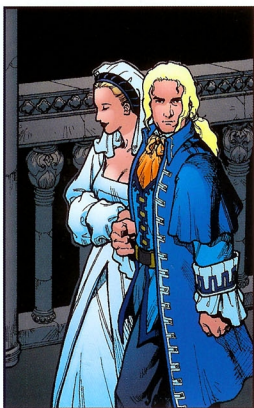
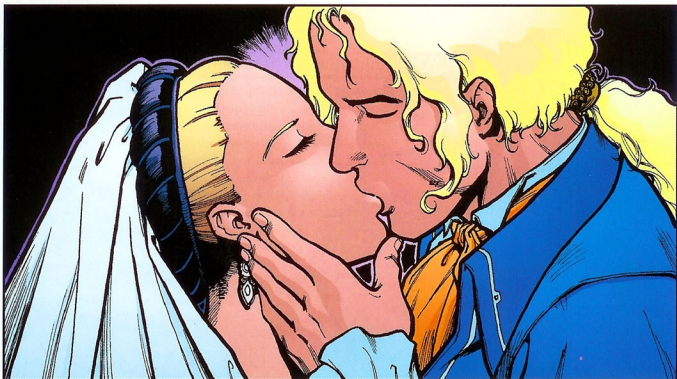
AAAAARRR!



THE PAIN
OF REBIRTH! OF
AWAKENING FROM
A CENTURY OF
SLUMBER!



AAAAAAAAAAAAA!



A muscular, blood-covered man with a lion's head is roaring in a stone arena. He has blood smeared on his chest, arms, and face. He is holding a severed head in his left hand. The background shows a cloudy sky and stone walls. In the foreground, there are green and purple draped objects.

BELMONT!
YOU ARE
MINE!

TO BE CONTINUED!



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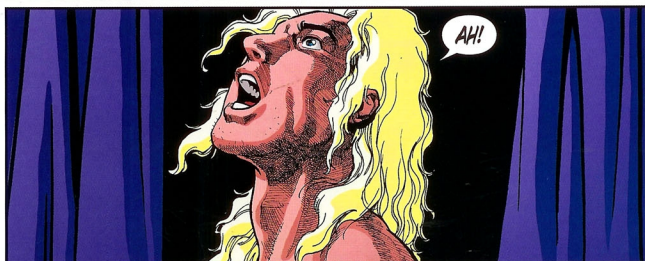
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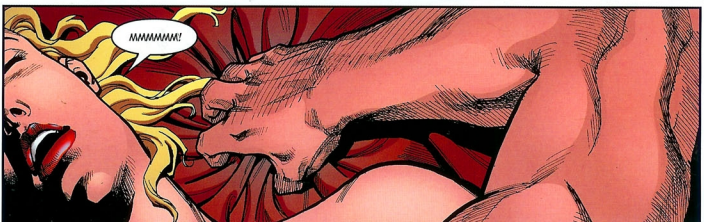
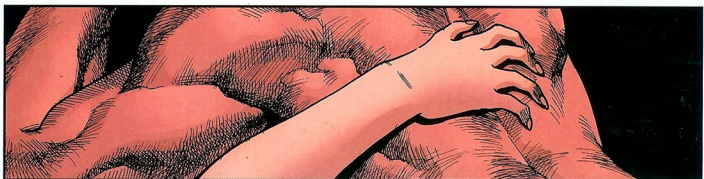
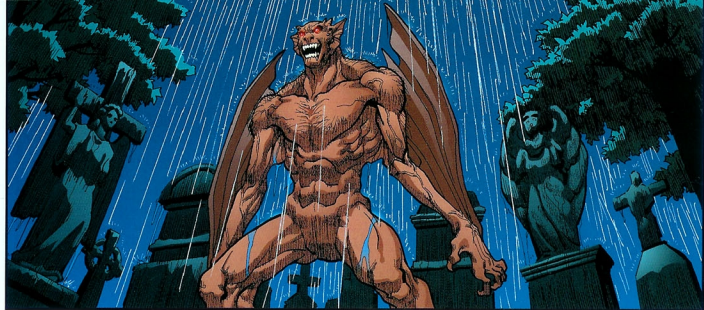
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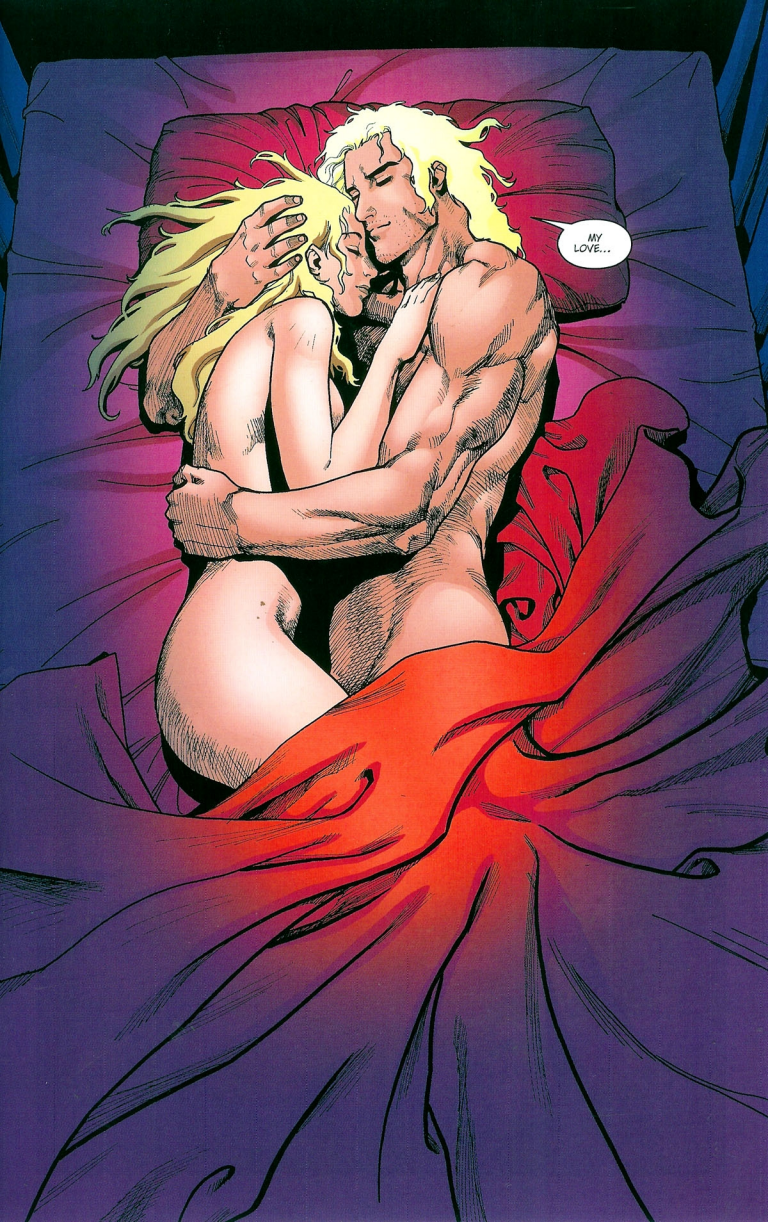
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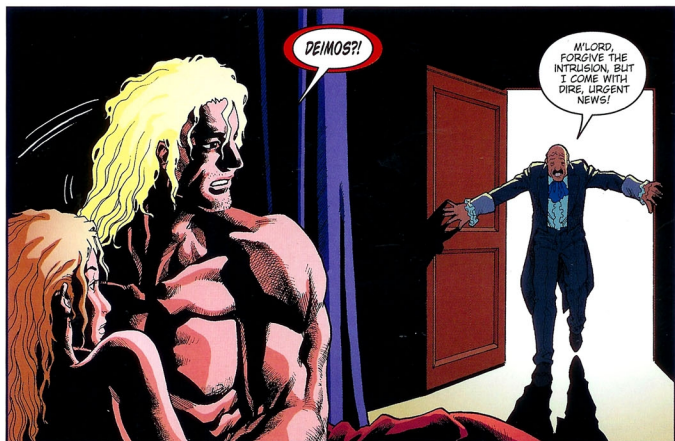


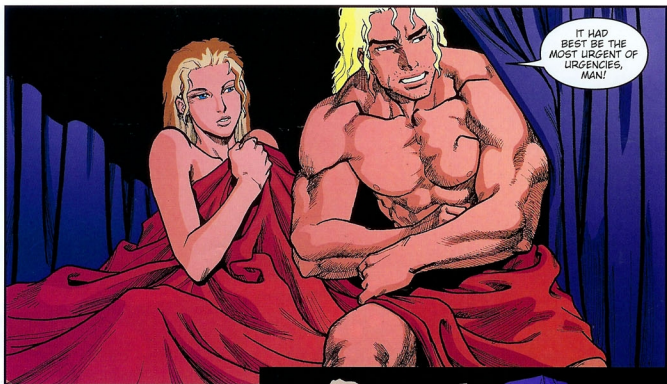


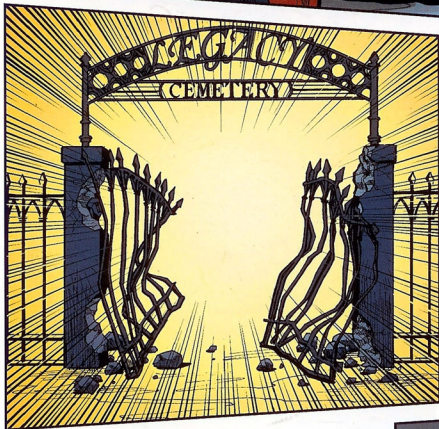




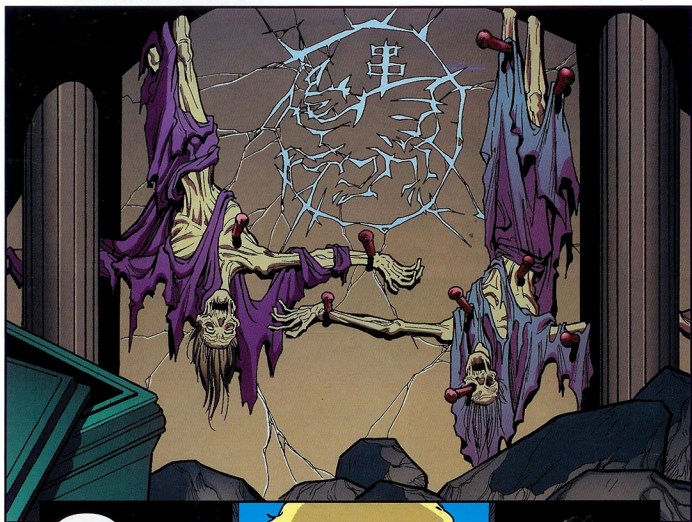
MY
LOVE...



















GRANDFATHER,
IT SEEMS THE ENTIRE
VILLAGE KNOWS OF
THE DEFILING OF THE
BELMONT GRAVES.

AND THEY
SEEM TO HAVE
AN IDEA WHO IS
TO BLAME, AS
WELL.



DO YOU
BELIEVE?
HAS DRACULA
RETURNED
FROM THE
GRAVE?

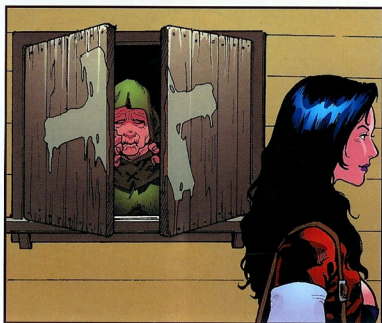


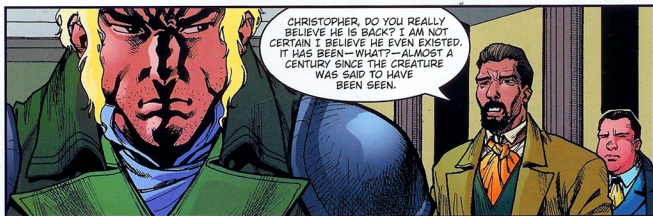
VIKTOR, MY
BOY, IF THAT
DEVIL HAS, WE
MUST FULFILL
OUR DUTIES.



BUT,
GRANDFATHER,
IF THE TALES
OF HIS POWER
ARE TRUE...

THEN WE WILL
DIE FIGHTING TO
SEND HIM BACK TO
HELL. COME, WE MUST
FIND YOUR SISTER AND
PAY A CALL TO LORD
CHRISTOPHER.







THE LORD
OF THE
UNDEAD.

HELLO,
HUSBAND,
GENTLEMEN. I
FORGIVE YOUR
OVERSIGHT IN NOT
TELLING ME OF
THIS MEETING.



ILLYA, THIS IS
NO PLACE FOR A
WOMAN. I MUST
ASK YOU...

WHAT? TO STAND
BY AND WATCH MY
HUSBAND FACE
DEATH?

I THINK NOT,
CHRISTOPHER. YOU
KNEW WHEN YOU ASKED
FOR MY HAND THAT I WAS
NO GIGGLING MILKMAID.



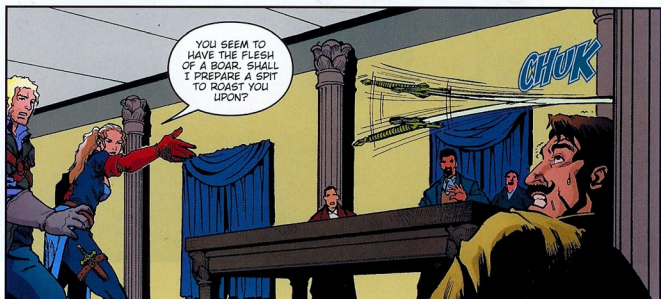
I LOVE YOU.
I AM NOW A
BELMONT. IT IS MY
DESTINY TO HELP
FACE THIS DRACULA,
BE HE MAN, BEAST,
OR SOMETHING
IN-BETWEEN.



LADY -
BELMONT, I
HAVE BUT ONE
QUESTION.

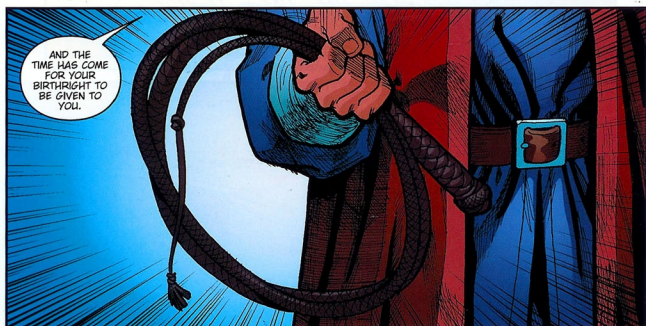
CAN YOU
COOK AS
WELL?

YES,
GREGORI?

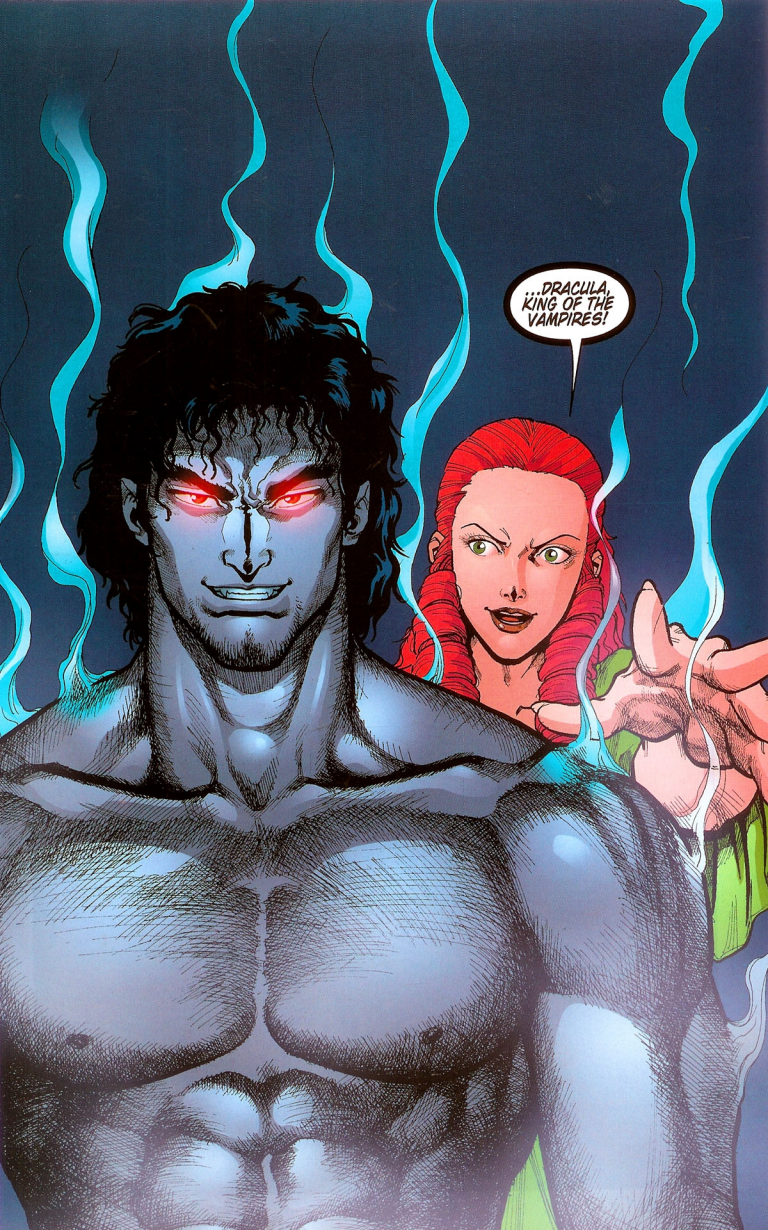


YOU SEEM TO
HAVE THE FLESH
OF A BOAR. SHALL
I PREPARE A SPIT
TO ROAST YOU
UPON?

CHUK







...DRACULA,
KING OF THE
VAMPIRES!





TO BE CONTINUED!



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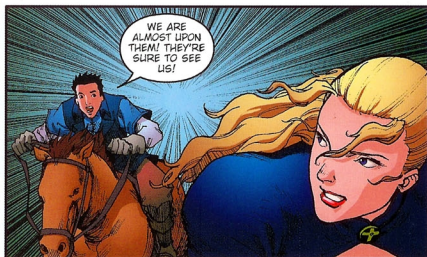
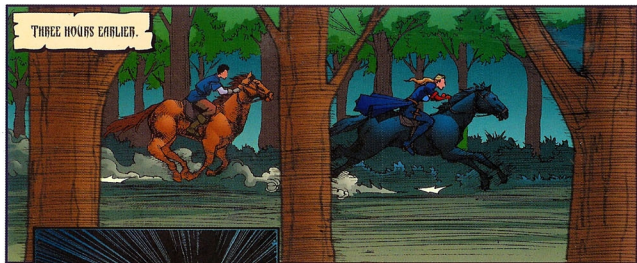


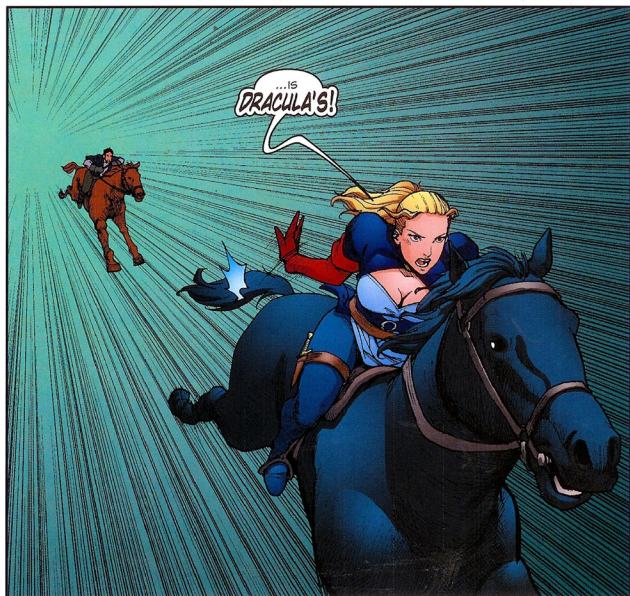
THE LOCATION: HIGH IN THE
CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS.

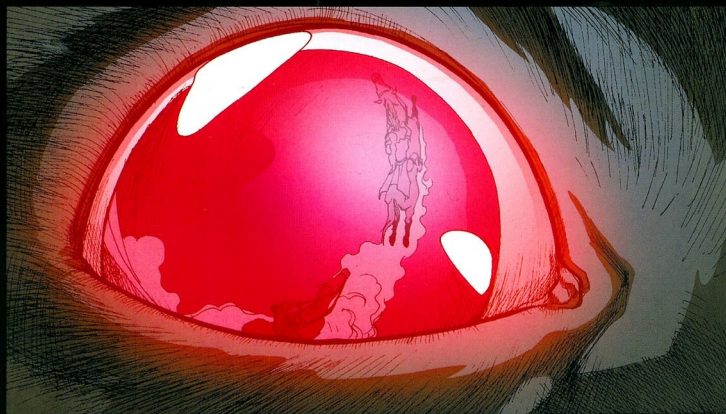
THE WOMAN HANGING
ON FOR DEAR LIFE:
THE NEWLY MARRIED
ILLYANA BELMONT.

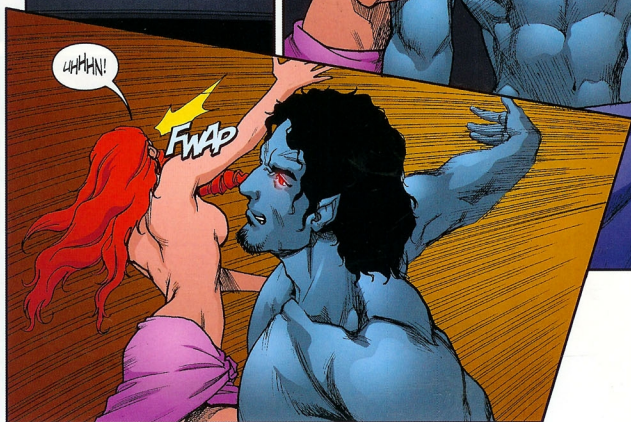
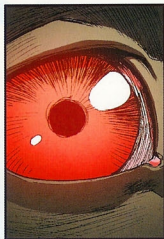
THIS IS **NOT** HOW
SHE HAD PLANNED TO
SPEND HER SECOND
NIGHT OF MARRIAGE.

THREE HOURS EARLIER.



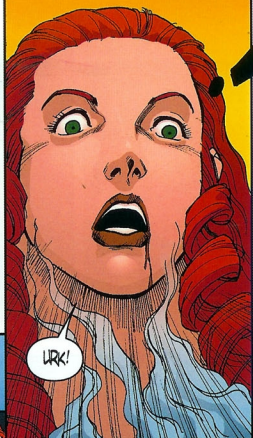








YOU
ARE MAD!
YOU WOULD DO
THIS TO YOUR
MOST FAITHFUL
SERVANT?



URK!

YES, AND
YOU WOULD DO
WELL TO REMEMBER
THAT IS ALL THAT
YOU ARE: A SERVANT!
YOUR FIRE BURNS
BRIGHTLY, GIRL, BUT
KNOW THIS...



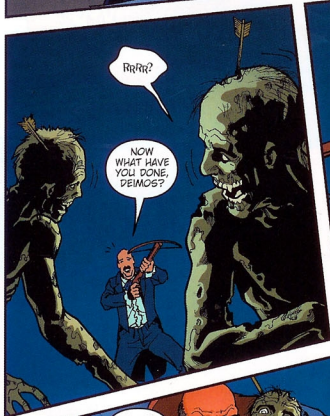
...YOU
ARE A MEANS
TO AN END, NOT
MY BRIDE!



-COUGH!-
-COUGH!-





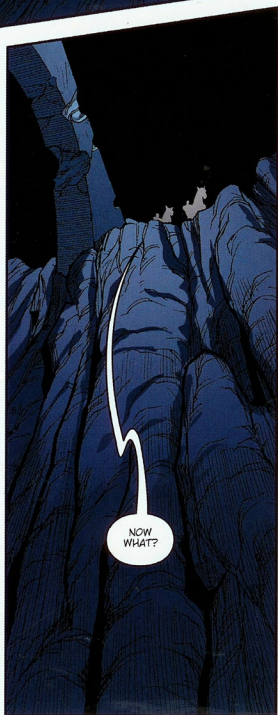






WE'RE
HERE!

WHOA!
BUT THE
BRIDGE IS
NOT!



NOW
WHAT?

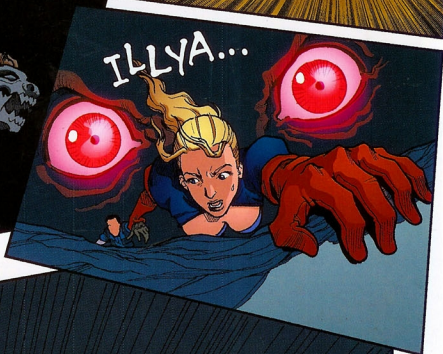
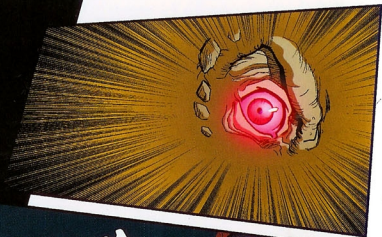
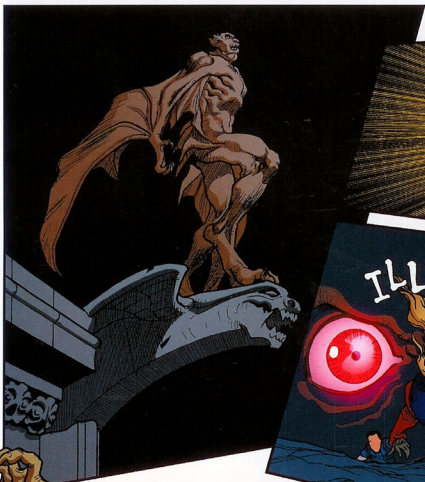


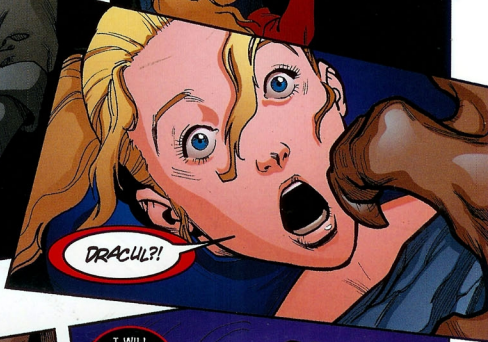
WE LEAVE
THE HORSES
AND CROSS
OURSELVES.
CAREFULLY.



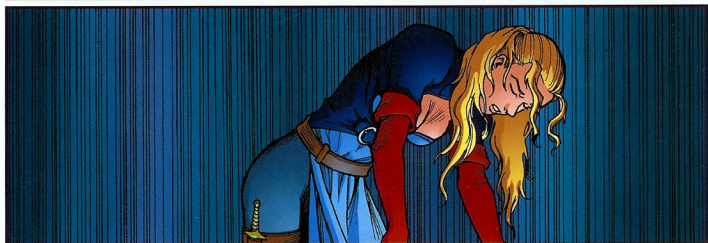
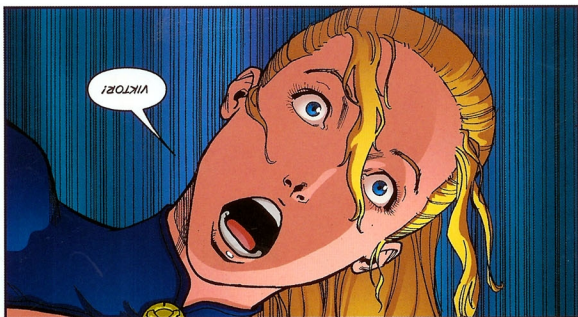
I
SUSPECTED
YOU WOULD
SAY THAT. HAIL
MARY, FULL OF
GRACE...





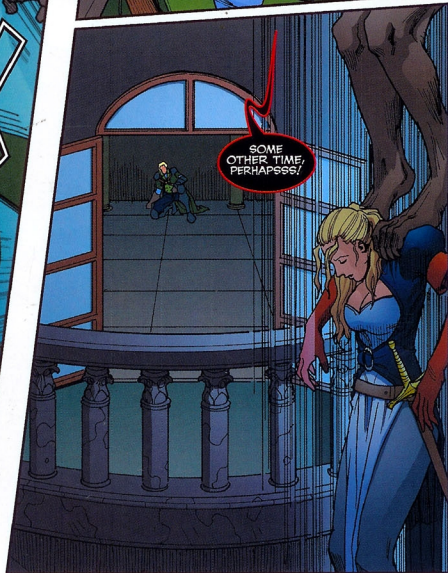
















HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HA

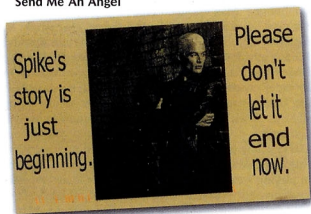
TO BE CONTINUED!

<HOW ABOUT A TITLE?>

It's Chris again. You know, to assemble the first two months of our new letters pages, I had to scour the archives and hit message boards to find enough material to fill these pages. And then a funny thing happened along the way. It turns out that an effective way to get mail from readers, at least until that first lettercol appears in stores and elicits more, is to make big announcements about titles and characters you like. For our first case study, let's look at the early response to our announcement of *Angel* comics (and by "early," I mean all these comments got to me within three days of the announcement):

LETTERS>

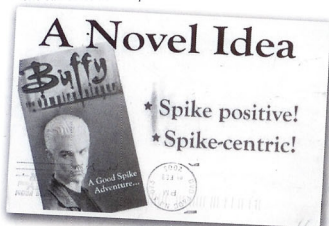
Send Me An Angel



I am happy to hear about the prospect of *Angel* comics. But PLEASE—let Spike be a part of them. I WANT TO SEE SPIKE SURVIVE AND HIS STORY GO ON. Please consider doing a Spike series of comics, too!!

Anonymous postcard
Wilmington, DE

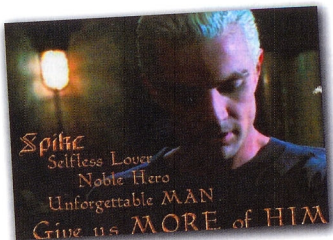
Spike? Are you mad, anonymous postcard-writer? No one still cares about Spike.



In your *Angel* comic book line, please, please please—let there be LOTS of Spike. His story is far from over!

Second anonymous postcard
Morristown, NJ

Spike? Are you mad, anonymous postcard-writer? Spike's story is over.



Please—don't let this hero's story end. Make Spike part of the *Angel* comics, and then give Spike his own miniseries as well. Thank you.

L.K. Hudson

Spike, you say? Really? I don't know...

I've heard that you are planning a series of comics based on the television show *Angel*. My reason for writing this letter is to voice my wish to have Spike-centric comics. The only reason I started watching *Angel* was because Spike was added to the show. I grew to like Angel and the others but Spike is far and away my favorite character and I would love to see his story continued in novels, comic books and at least one movie.

Trina Wood

Spike comics? Do you folks really want to see that? Honestly, I'd been planning to develop a spotlight on Lorne next but... you really like Spike, huh? I don't know... I need more convincing.

Spike, the vampire with a soul, played wonderfully by actor James Marsters in the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* series and the *Angel* series has a huge fan base. I want to see the character's journey continue. Please make a movie or spin-off for this character! Make creator Joss Whedon a great offer to return to TV and bring back creativity. Please support the fan effort for more Spike!

Postcard-sender Myriam Cader-Sargent
Pacifica, CA

Okay, you've worn me down. Spike is coming! Really, he is. We're starting with a mostly solo Angel tale (featuring some familiar cameos, too), but Spike will definitely be getting the star treatment from us, don't you worry. Spike, and all of Angel's cohorts, are a big reason for the show's success, and we're not going to let any of them languish. In fact, if you want Spike comics, you might want to pay attention to our August releases.

However, I'm not sure I have any say over Joss returning to TV to, as you say, "bring back creativity." But we still plan to be plenty creative on our own.

More Praise For Niles

I am an American military member stationed over in Sicily, (Italy). I am stationed overseas currently and giving

as much of myself as I can in this new war on terror. I want you to know that you help to give us soldiers something to look forward to and that's reading. The only radio station we have over here plays some lame music and still hasn't gotten anything recent enough to perk my interest. We have 5 American channels, two of which are news channels, one sports channel, and two movie channels. So it's nice to sit back and read when I get the chance to. I've been a big fan of your work since picking up *30 Days of Night* when I went home not too long ago. The first time that I read your work I thought you had a fantastic style of writing and story telling and I was really excited about your electrifying descriptions. I've tried to ask our base book store if they could get any of your comics over here but that didn't work out to my advantage. My wife and I try to find everything we can from your work. You supply us with a chance to get away from what may be troubling us and enjoy a whole new world we can escape to tranquility in your writings. Your talents are immense you truly are a superstar. Thank you for using your awesome ability, and for entertaining us overseas.

Petty Officer Sean P. Godown
United States Navy

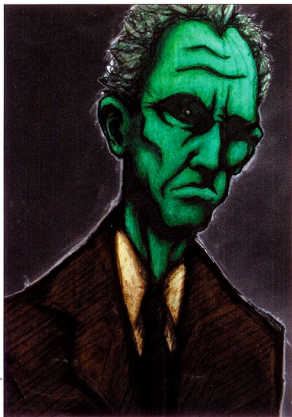
Actually, Sean, it's all of us here who should be thanking you. But I'm happy Niles's stuff is providing a release for you.

Steve, how do you stay sane drawing such sickening material? It's so twisted, so awesome! I marvel at how greatly your style differs from series to series.
TD

I can tell you how he stays sane drawing such material—he pulls a Tom Sawyer and actually convinces other folks to draw his sickening material for him, while he sits in the shade, tossing off script after script and never breaking a sweat or a pencil lead.

I just wanted to drop a quick thanks for your work over the last few years. I really enjoyed *30 Days of Night*, *Dark*

FAN ART>



This month's pin-up, Cal McDonald's stiff sidekick Mo'Lock, as drawn by Raine Anderson.

Days and *Return to Barrow* but have to say Cal MacDonald is the character I think is top-notch. *Savage Membrane*, *Guns, Drugs and Monsters*, and *Criminal Macabre* really brought back the "Dime Store Novel" feel to literature, which in my opinion is a compliment, seeing how *Fahrenheit 451* started out as one. Growing up with graphic novels and now being in the computer animation industry, I've been increasingly disappointed with what has been brought out over the last decade. There has been a lack of risk-taking at best and it's nice to see that your work has been well received and that you continue to push forward.

All the best,
Raine Anderson

And for a little more from Raine, cast your eyes on her version of Cal's ghoulish pal (see fan art), Mo'Lock, now appearing alongside Cal in the five-part Supernatural Freak Machine: A Cal McDonald Mystery, courtesy of Steve and Kelley Jones. If you liked Savage Membrane, Dr. Polynice from that book is back and, well, he just might be decreasing Cal's group of friends by the time that tale's done.

24 Letters

Hey, just got the new *24 Stories* and once again you guys did a great job with it. The action was tense and you guys really hit the dialogue like the show. Will there be more? Will we get a Tony Almeda solo special? We could see how he went from season 3 to 4. We could also see what he and Michelle have been up to. I love the book, keep up the good work.

Ted Contreras

Based on Tony's appearance on this season of 24, I think we can all infer that he and Michelle aren't exactly living Happily Ever After. I like Tony as much as the next guy, but come on—24 is Jack Bauer. And everyone wants more Jack, right? (If your answer was "yes," then keep an eye out for our third 24 one-shot in July, 24: Midnight Sun. In that one, written by series regulars Mark Haynes and J.C. Vaughn, we vary the format of the book a bit from the others and just tell a solid, kick-ass story.)

Grim Tidings

I picked up *GrimJack: Killer Instinct # 1*. Every one hit a home run. John, Tim and Mike were on the top of their game. It like GrimJack never left the comics market. A very entertaining new story was told, while bringing the new readers up to speed on the books history.

The production values were top notch. Only Doc Frankstein and Shaolin Cowboy exist at this level.

I have not purchased any IDW product in the past. I am really not that interested in horror or TV comics. However, I plan to stay on board for *GrimJack* and *Jon Sable*. I enjoyed the initial runs of both series while attending college in the 1980s.

I hope that IDW continues to expand its offerings. I would buy 8 to 10 titles of this quality per month. The price point is not an issue. I would rather pay \$ 4.00 for quality than \$2.25/2.50 for poorly produced comics.

Thanks for bringing *GrimJack* back to racks.

Mark Godwin

I like those Burlyman books well enough, too, but you have to admit, when it comes to packing the most possible story into 22 pages of comic, John Ostrander is one of the very best. It's easy to offer some great art, or a decent story, but it's hard to find books where the creative team meshes

as well as it does on **GrimJack**. Mike Gold always says that he, John and Tim are like an old, married (if polygamous) couple, and it shows in their work

As for **Jon Sable, Freelance**, yeah, I came of age reading First Comics's titles, so I'm as happy as anyone to see Mike Grell's best character return (this month, in fact: **Jon Sable, Freelance: Bloodtrail #1** is hitting shops any day now). Now if only I had some more takes on the **E-Man** revival I've been pushing for...

I picked up the new **GrimJack #1** and the trade. I'd never read comics until just a few years ago so I never read it the first time around. I made it a point to read the first issue just to see if it was newbie-friendly.

For the most part I'd say it succeeded. There was a short bit in the beginning I found confusing. Not sure what that Dancer guy's gripe with Gaunt was. I got the feeling maybe it was a freebie for old **GrimJack** fans. Once it got to the part of commissioning the hit ride was fun the rest of the way. I loved everything about it with the sole exception of the colors. I'm not a big fan of dull, muddy orange, camo-olive-brown or murky blue colors. Other than that small nitpick I really liked it and am making sure to pick up the rest of the run.

Here's hoping the new **GrimJack** is around for a longer haul than just 4 issues!

GrimJack Fan

Done! He'll be here for six! Beyond that, we're talking, but it wouldn't hurt for you to pester your retailer non-stop about your love for the character. I'm talking megaphones, spray paint, the whole nine yards.

As for the bit with Dancer in the first issue, well, as you progress into **The Legend of GrimJack** in the trade paperbacks, you'll see exactly who Dancer is and why he has a mad-on for **GrimJack**. This is a title with a passionate fan-base, and Dancer was just one of many nods to the folks who've been around a while. Doesn't hurt your ability to enjoy the story if you've never seen him before, and if you have, well, all the better.

SHAMELESS PLUGS>

As our comics line grows ever more diverse, we're offering up some unique titles I really hope you'll check out. Let's take a look at other books due this month, shall we?

• **SMOKE #1** by Alex de Campi and Igor Kordey. This one's a bit different for us, in that it's not so much horror as it is an espionage thriller set in a dystopian near-future London. It's filled with ex-government assassins and corrupt government officials and a sense of nicely black humor throughout. And it features **New X-Men** artist Igor Kordey back in his element. Wait until you see what he's doing on this book—I thought his work never looked better than when he drew **Cable**, and yet this is worlds above his work on that, or any, title.

• **AMERICAN FREAKSHOW #1** by Steve Niles and Chee. The **Dawn of the Dead** team reunites to bring you this miniseries that takes a look at the sad, sordid life of "Sloth Boy," a circus freak who was born with claws for feet and hands. But if you think that's just the least of his problems, well then, you've obviously read a Steve Niles book before.

• **SILENT HILL: THE GRINNING MAN** by Scott Ciencin and Nick Stakal. Novelist and regular **Silent Hill** writer

Ciencin is joined by **Containment's** Nick Stakal on this latest one-shot. Fans of the Konami game should be pleasantly creeped out by this one, too.

• **THE UNAUTHORIZED "PUFFED" MOVIE ADAPTATION TPB** by John Layman and Dave Crosland. Gambit writer Layman and Dave Crosland's **Puffed** was one of the funniest darkly comedic comics since, well, since Evan Dorkin's **Dork** went on hiatus. Here, we collect their entire miniseries and the "where are they now?" one-shot, along with a metric ton of extras, including a new 5-page story, a cover gallery from superstars with last names like **Cassaday**, **Quitely**, **Kieth**, **Mahfood** and **Ash Wood**, too. And Crosland (**Heaven LLC**) offers up a brand-new wraparound cover, too.

• **METAL GEAR SOLID VOL. 1 TPB & HC** by Kris Oprisko and Ashley Wood. This special collection gathers the first arc of our popular videogame adaptation. It's offered as both a softcover and limited edition hardcover.

Plus there're the concluding chapters of the **Bigfoot** and **Containment** miniseries, and a lot more. Check out www.IDWpublishing.com for information on all of these titles. And while you're at it, hit our Forums there and post letters for a chance to appear in this very spot. The contest to win a copy of Ashley Wood's **Popbot Vol. 2** TPB for naming this lettercol is still open, too, but not for much longer. Post there, or e-mail me at letters@idwpublishing.com, and we'll see you right back here in 30.

—Chris Ryall

NEXT MONTH>



Dracula's evil continues to grow as Christopher Belmont strives to save his wife, and the world, from the vampire lord. Belmont's allies, the Totoyans, are visited by a horror of their own when young Viktor is turned and attacks his grandfather and sister.



Castlevania

the belmont legacy

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Written by **Marc Andreyko**
Pencils & Inks by **E. J. Su**
Colors & Letters by **Tom B. Long**
Cover by **E. J. Su**
Editor **Kris Oprisko**



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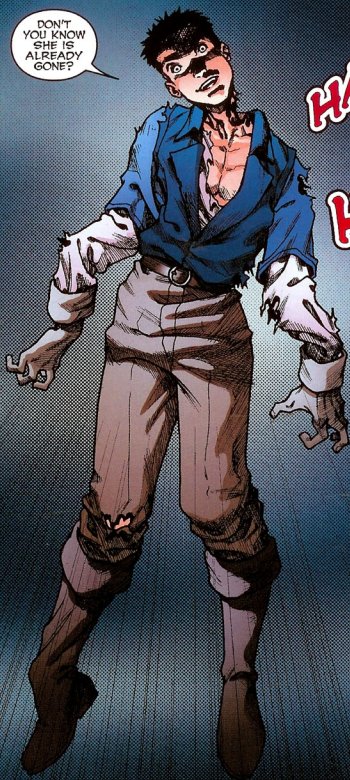
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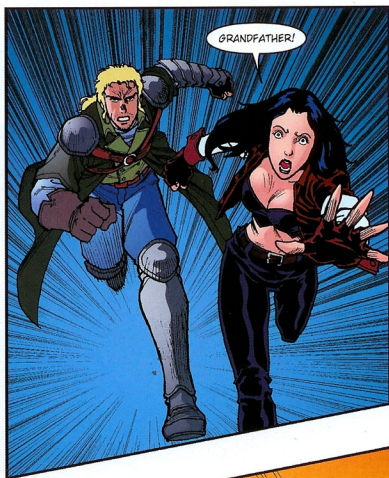
DON'T
YOU KNOW
SHE IS
ALREADY
GONE?

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!







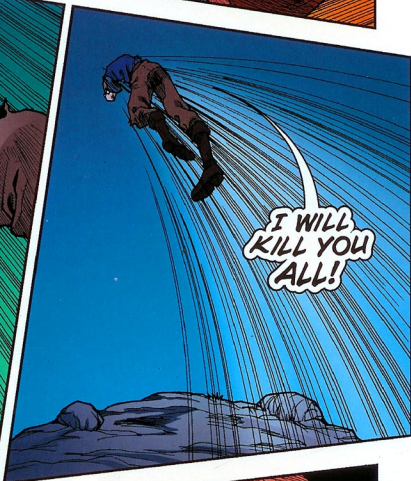


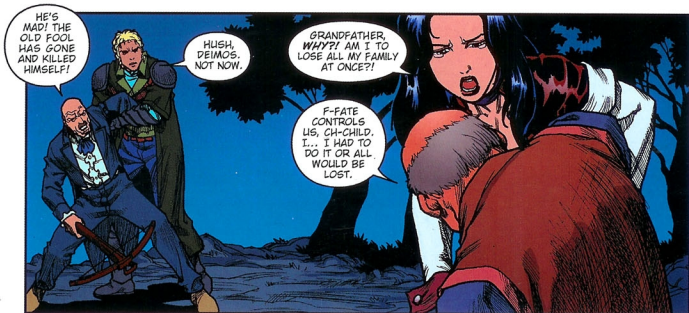


...BUT
THIS IS
FOR YOUR
SOUL!

SSSSSS

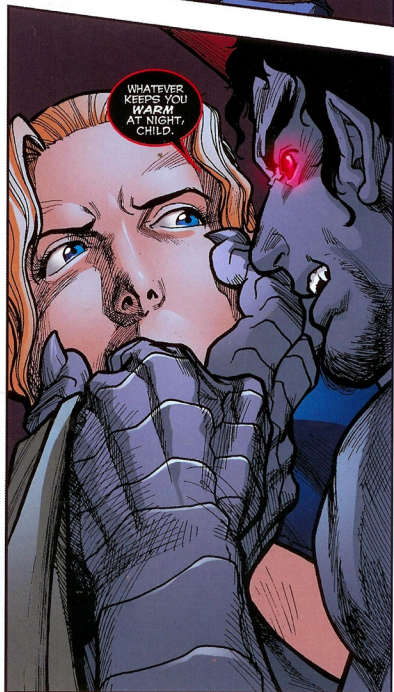
AAIIIEEEE!













WHATEVER
KEEPS YOU
WARM AT NIGHT,
CHILD.



WHAT
DID YOU SAY,
GRANDFATHER?



SHE STILL
LIVES.



ARE YOU
CERTAIN?

YES...
HE IS TOYING
WITH HER.



HE WON'T
KEEP HER
ALIVE FOR
LONG...



THEN TELL
US HOW TO
FIND HER!

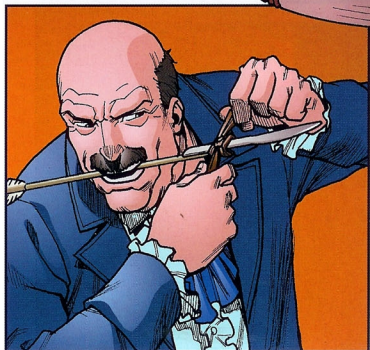
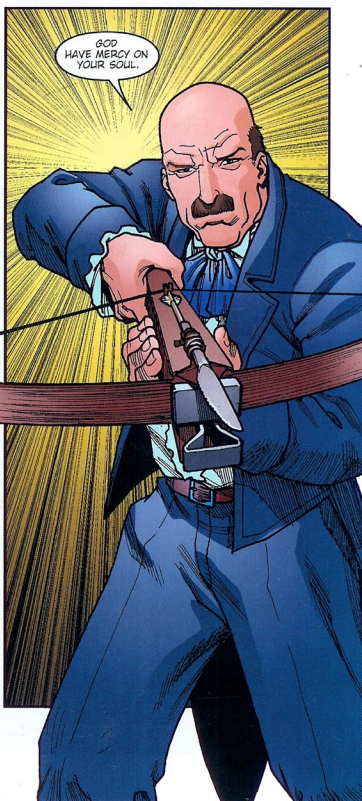


LINHAND
HIM, BELMONT!
YOURS IS NOT
THE ONLY LOSS
THIS NIGHT!

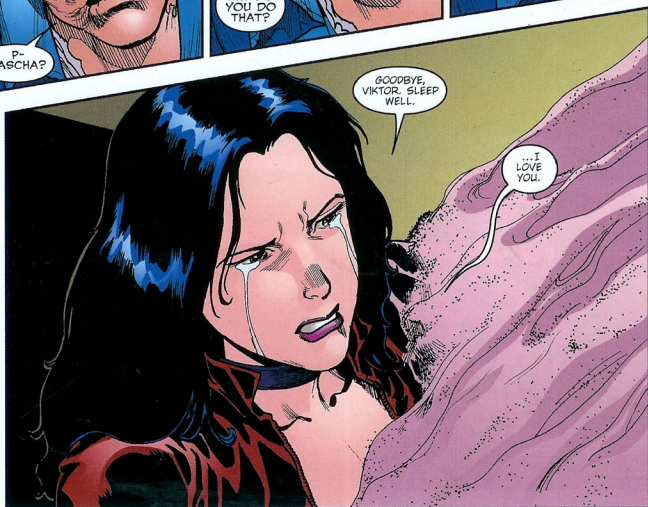
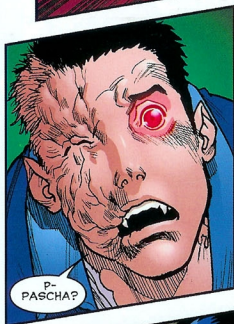


















DO YOU
FEAR THE RAYS
OF THE SUN?



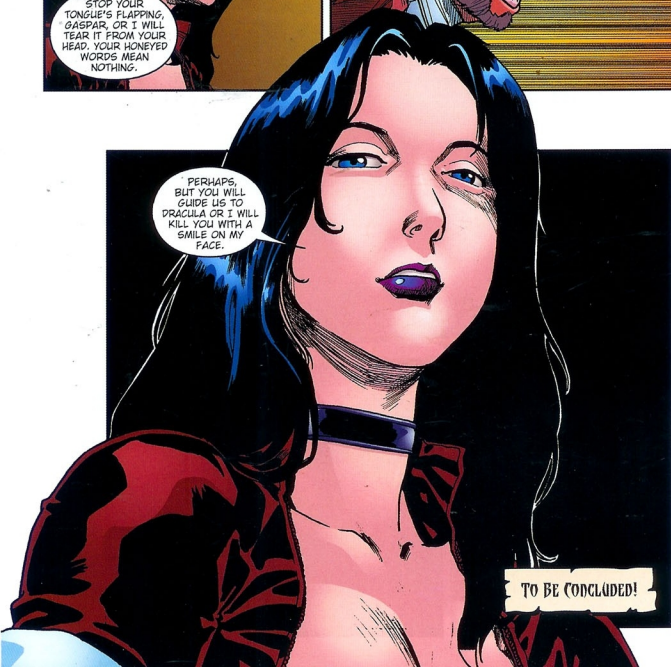
PASCHA...
YOU ARE MY
LAST KIN. HELP
ME! THESE MEN
ARE CRAZY!
THEY THINK I
AM...



STOP YOUR
TONGUE'S FLAPPING,
GASPAR, OR I WILL
TEAR IT FROM YOUR
HEAD. YOUR HONEYED
WORDS MEAN
NOTHING.



DISLOYAL
BITCH!



PERHAPS,
BUT YOU WILL
GUIDE US TO
DRACULA OR I WILL
KILL YOU WITH A
SMILE ON MY
FACE.

TO BE CONCLUDED!



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the belmont legacy

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00511

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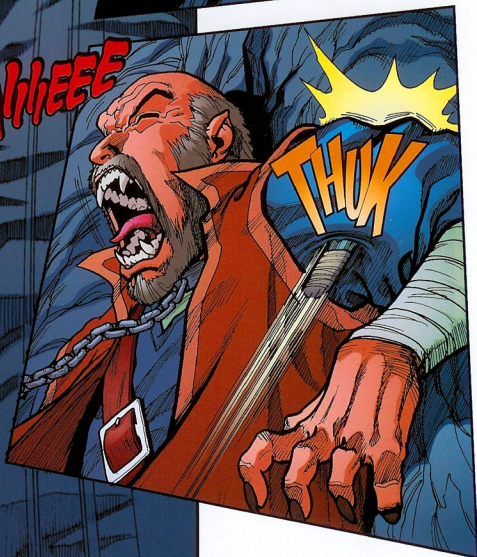
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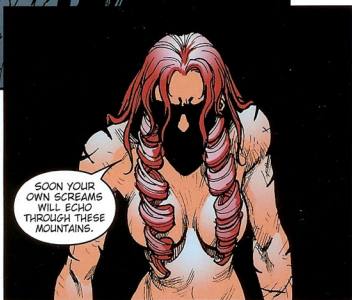


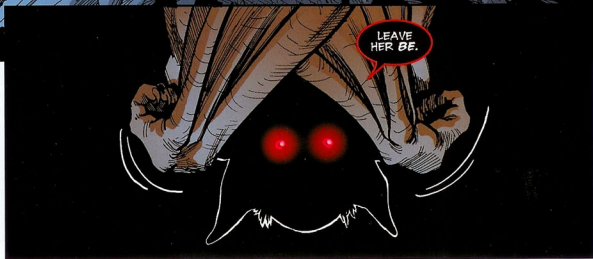
THE TRAIL
IS FAINT.
I CANNOT
CONTACT THE
MASTER!

ENOUGH
LIES, GASPAR—
JUST KEEP CLIMBING.
AND FASTER, UNLESS
YOU WANT A STAKE
THROUGH YOUR
RANCID HEART.



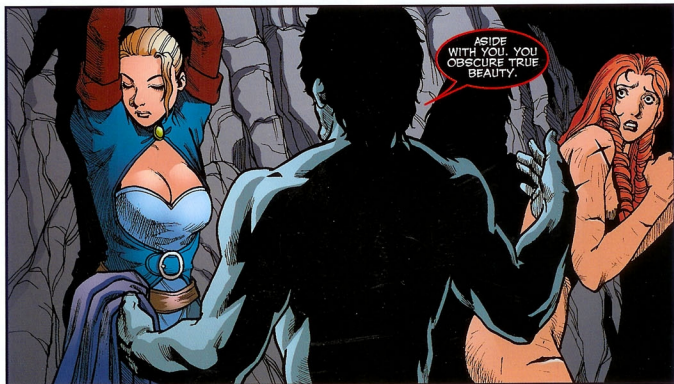
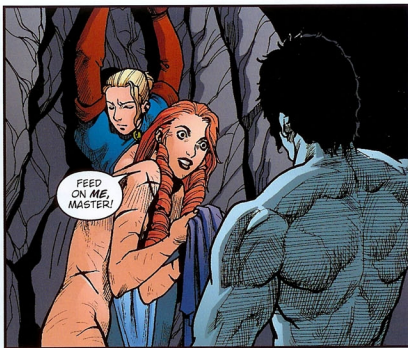


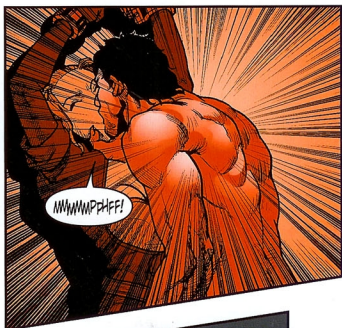
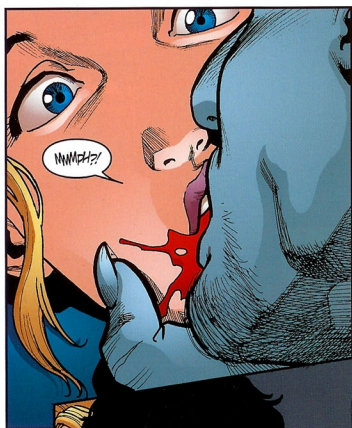
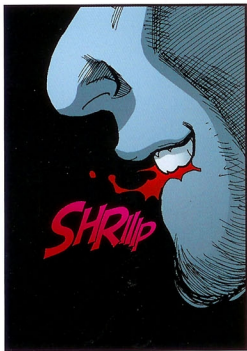


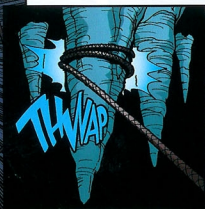




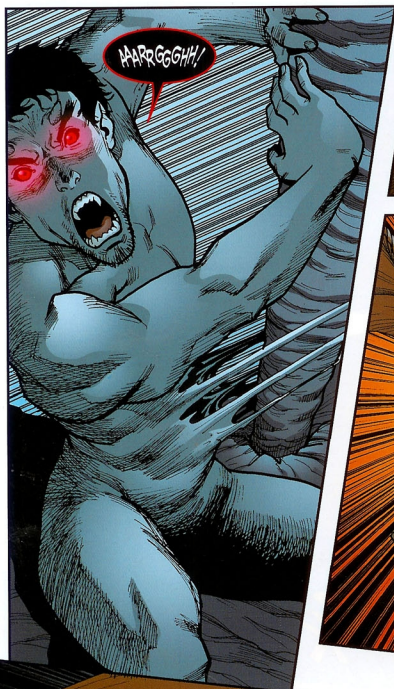


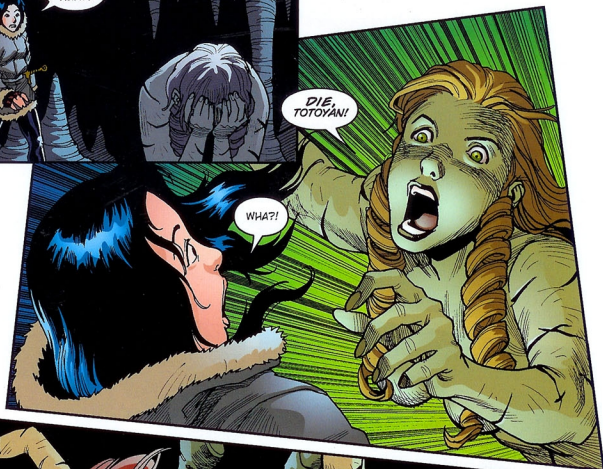


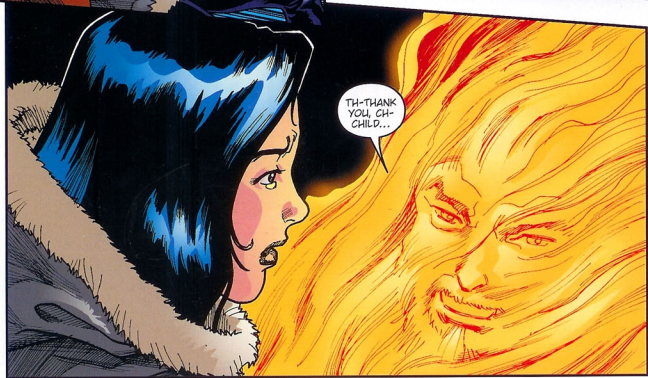






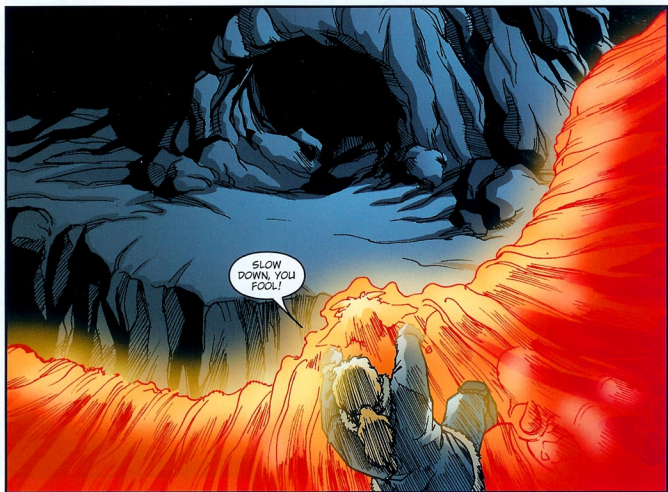
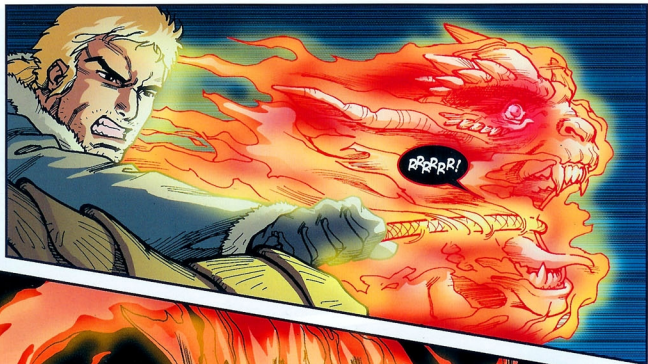


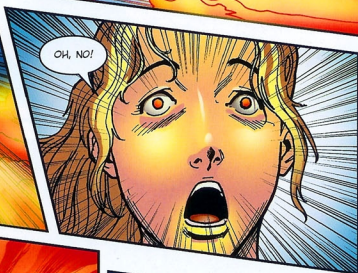


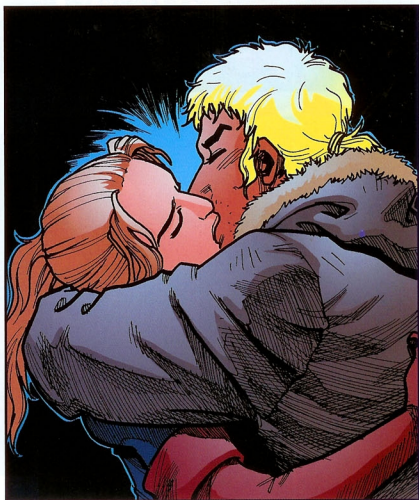
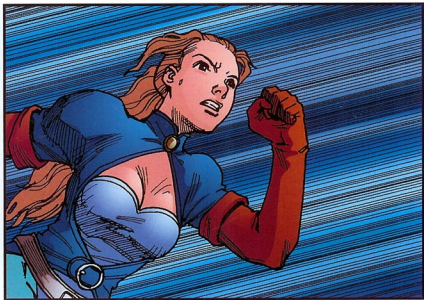












SIX MONTHS LATER.



